Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Appro	ved for Release 2012/05/10:	CIA-RDP99-00418R000100230008-9
STAT		The Washington Post D. 3.

**KEEPING IN TOUCH** 

Bobby Inman wants to know what's going on in Washington. The former deputy director of the CIA runs Westmark Corp., a fast-growing defense electron-

icsfirm based in Austin, Tex. To keep tabs on the company's largest customer, Westmark will open a strategic planning office in Washington within the next few weeks.

A small professional staff will "keep an eye on where defense is likely to be going, and what programs are likely to be the ones continued in a declining budget environment," Inman said.

The office will be based at the Washington headquarters of Tracor Inc., the defense contractor that in September for \$694.4 million.

Inman joined Westmark, a holding company principally owned by the merchant banking firm Mason Best Co., in September 1986, after leaving Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp., a high-tech research consortium that he headed.

"It's a small window for a small holding company," Inman said, adding that in the next year he intends to follow an aggressive acquisition strategy aimed at adding to Westmark's strength in the defense electronics business.

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